

REMARKS

Claims 15-18 and 20 remain in the application with claims 15 and 20 having been amended hereby and claim 19 having been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of the claims under 35 USC 102 (e) as being anticipated by Yokota et al.

The present invention relates to a reproducing apparatus and method for reproducing a multiple-layer recording medium in which the layers contain related information, that is, the ensemble playing of the musical piece and a solo playing of a musical piece or the lyrics of a musical piece. By providing a reproducing apparatus that can selectively reproduce these different but related informations from the multiple-layer disc, it is possible to add your own lyrics to the ensemble playing or to combine all of the information so that the multiplexed output is the solo along with the ensemble.

Yokota et al. relates to a system for recording information on a record medium having a plurality of separate and distinct areas such as tracks or sectors or the like.

A feature of the present invention is that when the data is reproduced from a two-layer disc, for example, in order to have the combined data be reproduced simultaneously the location of the laser beam is shifted backwardly when reading the second layer to a point where the first layer was previously reproduced. This feature of the present invention is explained starting at page 24 of the present specification and is shown in Fig. 6A as well.

Furthermore, this feature of the present invention was originally recited in claim 19. Claim 19 has now been combined with claim 15 and similar limitations have been added to method claim 20.


Although as the examiner notes Yokota et al. does state at column 48 that the invention would also apply to a multi-layer structure, there is no suggestion in Yokota et al. of an operation such as represented in Fig. 6A of the present application and as now recited in the amended claims.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the reproducing apparatus and method in which the reading point is shifted from one layer to the next so that the output being reproduced can be combined for a composite signal, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the amended claims, is neither shown nor suggested in the cited reference.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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